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final unfairly restrict the Applicant's ability to respond because the issues of patentability are not adequately developed in accordance with the standards expressed in the MPEP, 37 C.F.R Title 37 U.S.C. Chapter 35. An Applicant presented with a non-compliant final rejection is unable to judge the advisability of an appeal because the Office Action does not contain a complete statement supporting the rejection. A non-compliant final rejection also prematurely cuts off the prosecution without giving the Applicant a full and fair hearing.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following amendment and remarks. Should the Examiner find Applicant's response insufficient to overcome the rejection, it is requested that the Examiner issue a detailed, non-final Office Action clearly stating the reasons for the rejection of each claim in view of the prior art.

The amendments are clarifying in nature and present no new issues for search. The amendments are calculated to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

AMENDMENT

A clean version of the amended portions is attached as separate pages to this Response.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 9, and 15 as indicated below.

1. A ground connector for use with an associated distribution transformer which comprises:

a one piece base comprising a fixed jaw, a first guide portion[, said base having] and a spade connector defining an opening [and comprising a fixed jaw and a first guide portion]; and

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a one piece movable member comprising a movable jaw, a second guide portion partially defining a receiving cavity, [said movable member defining a receiving cavity and comprising a movable jaw and a second guide portion, at least partially defined by the receiving cavity, said cavity] said receiving cavity configured for receiving said first guide portion in sliding engagement in order to guide longitudinal movement of said movable member with respect to said base to form a clamp, [wherein] said first guide portion and said second guide portion [are configured for sliding engagement to guide longitudinal movement of said movable member with respect to said base to form a clamp, one of said first guide portion and said second guide portion has] having a pair of opposing ribs and [said other said first guide portion and second guide portion has] a pair of opposing channels which cooperate with said ribs; and

securement means for securing said base and movable member so that when a cable is received between said fixed jaw and said movable jaw, said jaws are securably clampable against said cable.

9. A ground connector installation comprising:

a distribution transformer, having a generally cylindrical shaped housing and having a ground connecting means;

a one piece base[, said base having] comprising a fixed jaw, a first guide portion, and a spade connector defining an opening [and comprising a fixed jaw and a first guide portion];

a one piece movable member comprising a movable jaw, a second guide portion, and a receiving cavity, said receiving cavity at least partially defines the second guide portion, [said movable member defining a receiving cavity and comprising a movable jaw and a second guide portion, at least partially defined by the receiving cavity, said cavity receiving said] and receives the first guide portion wherein said first guide portion and said second guide portion are configured for sliding engagement to guide longitudinal movement of said movable member with respect to said base to form a clamp, [one of] said first guide portion and said second guide portion [has] having a pair

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of opposing ribs and [said other said first guide portion and second guide portion has] a pair of opposing channels which cooperate with said ribs; and

securement means for securing said base and movable member so that when a cable is received between said fixed jaw and said movable jaw, said jaws are securably clampable against said cable; and

a bolt extending through said opening into said ground connecting means for mounting said base to said transformer.

15. The ground connector of claim 14, wherein said cable is secured in said [claim] clamp in an orientation which is perpendicular to a direction of said longitudinal movement of said movable member with respect to said base.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 governing Amendment After Final Rejection. As discussed above, Applicant believes the finality of the rejection should be withdrawn. However, this Amendment is appropriate for entry under Rule 116, since it does not raise new issues and places the application in allowable condition and/or places the application in better condition for appeal.

This After Final Response is being filed in Response to the Office Action, dated February 26, 2003. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 9, and 15 have been amended. Upon entry, at the discretion of the Examiner, claims 1-18 will be pending in the application.

Claim Objection Obviated

Objection to amended claim 15 no longer applies. Claim 15, line 1 has been amended as per the Examiner's comment. Applicant acknowledges, and verifies the dependency of the claims.